

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method of screening ~~a preventive/therapeutic drug for diabetic nephropathy, chronic renal failure, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, interstitial renal disease or renal edema, which comprises using (i) lysophosphatidic acid or a salt thereof and (ii) an EDG-2 receptor comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof,~~ to screen for a test compound or a salt thereof that changes the a binding property of lysophosphatidic acid; or a salt thereof to said an EDG-2 receptor or a salt thereof;

wherein the EDG-2 receptor comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or an amino acid sequence with at least 95% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;

comprising the steps of:

a) bringing into contact the lysophosphatidic acid, the EDG-2 receptor, and the test compound;

b) measuring the binding property of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG-2 receptor;

c) determining whether the test compound changes the binding property of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG-2 receptor; and

d) determining whether the test compound inhibits mesangial cell growth.

9. (Currently Amended) A kit for screening ~~a preventive/therapeutic drug for diabetic nephropathy, chronic renal failure, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, interstitial renal disease or renal edema, comprising (i) lysophosphatidic acid or a salt thereof, and (ii) an EDG-2~~

~~receptor comprising the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, its partial peptide, or a salt thereof.~~ for a test compound or a salt thereof that changes a binding property of lysophosphatidic acid or a salt thereof to an EDG-2 receptor or a salt thereof;

wherein the EDG-2 receptor comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or an amino acid sequence with at least 95% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;  
comprising the steps of:

- a) bringing into contact the lysophosphatidic acid, the EDG-2 receptor, and the test compound;
- b) measuring the binding property of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG-2 receptor;
- c) determining whether the test compound changes the binding property of the lysophosphatidic acid and the EDG-2 receptor; and
- d) determining whether the test compound inhibits mesangial cell growth.

10-21. (Cancelled)

22. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the EDG-2 receptor is a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

23. (New) The kit of Claim 9, wherein the EDG-2 receptor is a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

24. (New) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of determining whether the test compound is useful for treating diabetic nephropathy, chronic renal failure, nephritis, glomerulonephritis, interstitial renal disease or renal edema.